

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claim 4.

Please amend Claims 1 and 11.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A pipe shoe for supporting a pipe from a pipe rack or other structural support, the pipe shoe comprising:

a generally horizontal base plate for sliding engagement with the pipe rack or other structural support in response to thermal expansion of the pipe;

a left-side support plate and a right-side support plate each affixed to and extending generally upward from the base plate, the right-side support plate including a right-side support plate port spaced upward from the base plate, the right-side support plate being angled at from 1° to 5° with respect to a plane perpendicular to the base plate;

a curved lower plate affixed to and supported on both the left-side support plate and the right-side support plate, the curved lower plate being configured for supporting the pipe;

a curved upper plate including a left-side lower end and a right-side lower end for positioning about the pipe;

a left-side attachment member for attaching the left-side lower end of the upper plate to the left-side support plate;

an attachment mechanism for securing the right-side lower end of the upper plate to the right-side support plate, the attachment mechanism including a right-side bolt spaced upward from the base plate passing through a hole in the right-side lower end of the upper plate and the right-side support plate port, such that the curved upper plate is pulled toward

the base plate to place the right-side bolt in tension when the right-side bolt is tightened;

the right-side support plate being angled with respect to a plane perpendicular to a plane of the base plate; and

the right-side support plate being angled away from the centerline of the pipe, such that tightening the right-side bolt pulls the right-side lower end of the upper plate toward a lower portion of the pipe.

2. **(Previously Cancelled)**

3. **(Previously Cancelled)**

4. **(Cancelled)**

5. **(Original)** The pipe shoe as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:

a left-side support plate port, a left-side bolt, and a left-side support plate hole in the left-side lower end of the upper plate.

6. **(Original)** The pipe shoe as defined in Claim 5, wherein the left-side support plate is positioned radially inward of the left-side lower end of the upper plate, and the right-side support plate is positioned radially inward of the right-side lower end of the upper plate.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The pipe shoe as defined in Claim 1, wherein the curved lower plate is configured for planar engagement with the pipe along a circumferential length from 90° to 160°.

8. **(Original)** The pipe shoe as defined in Claim 1, wherein each of the curved lower plate and curved upper plate have an arcuate interior surface with a radius substantially conforming to an exterior surface of the pipe.

9. **(Original)** The pipe shoe as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:

a front left-side support plate and a front right-side support plate each secured to the base plate;

a rear left-side support plate and a rear right-side support plate each affixed to the base plate; and

the curved lower plate extends axially from the front support plates to the rear support plate.

10. **(Original)** The pipe shoe as defined in Claim 9, further comprising:

a curved front upper plate for engagement with the front support plates, and

a curved rear upper plate for engagement with the rear support plates.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A pipe shoe for supporting a pipe from a pipe rack or other structural support, the pipe shoe comprising:

a generally horizontal base plate for sliding engagement with the pipe rack or other structural support in response to thermal expansion of the pipe;

a left-side support plate and a right-side support plate each affixed to and extending generally upward from the base plate and angled away from the centerline of the pipe with respect to a ~~plane~~ plate perpendicular to the base plate, the right-side support plate including a right-side support plate port and the left-side support plate including a left-side support plate port;

a curved lower plate affixed to and supported on both the left-side support plate and the right-side support plate, the curved lower plate being configured for supporting the pipe;

a curved upper plate including a left-side lower end and a right-side lower end for positioning about the pipe;

an attachment mechanism for securing the right-side lower end of the upper plate

to the right-side support plate, the attachment mechanism including a right-side bolt passing through a hole in the right-side lower end of the upper plate and the right-side support plate port, such that the curved upper plate is pulled toward the base plate to place the right-side bolt in tension when the right-side bolt is tightened;

the right-side support plate being angled at from 1° to 5° with respect to the plane perpendicular to the base plate, and the left-side support plate being angled at from 1° to 5° with respect to the plane perpendicular to the base plate.

12. **(Previously Cancelled)**

13. **(Original)** The pipe shoe as defined in Claim 11, wherein the left-side support plate is positioned radially inward of the left-side lower end of the upper plate, and the right-side support plate is positioned radially inward of the right-side lower end of the upper plate.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The pipe shoe as defined in Claim 11, wherein the curved lower plate is configured for planar engagement with the pipe along a circumferential length from 90° and 160°.

15. **(Original)** The pipe shoe as defined in Claim 11, further comprising:

a front left-side support plate and a front right-side support plate each secured to the base plate;

a rear left-side support plate and a rear right-side support plate each affixed to the base plate; and

the curved lower plate extends axially from the front support plates to the rear support plate.

16. **(Previously Presented)** A method of supporting a pipe from a pipe rack or

other structural support, the method comprising:

providing a generally horizontal base plate for sliding engagement with the pipe rack or other structural support in response to thermal expansion of the pipe;

affixing each of a left-side support plate and a right-side support plate to and extending generally upward from the base plate, the right-side support plate including a right-side support plate port;

affixing a curved lower plate to and supported on both the left-side support plate and the right-side support plate, the curved lower plate being configured for supporting the pipe;

providing a curved upper plate including a left-side lower end and a right-side lower end for positioning about the pipe;

attaching the left-side lower end of the upper plate to the left-side support plate;

securing the right-side lower end of the upper plate to the right-side support plate by inserting a right-side bolt through a hole in the right-side lower end of the upper plate and the right-side support plate port;

tightening the right-side bolt to pull the curved upper plate toward the base plate and place the right-side bolt in both tension and shear;

providing a left-side support plate port, a left-side bolt, and a left-side support plate hole in the left-side lower end of the upper plate; and

the left-side support plate being positioned radially inward of the left-side lower end of the upper plate, and the right-side support plate being positioned radially inward of the right-side lower end of the upper plate.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The method as defined in Claim 16, further comprising:

angling the right-side support plate with respect to a plane perpendicular to a plane of the base plate, the right-side support plate being angled away from the centerline of the pipe, such that tightening the right-side bolt pulls the right-side lower end of the upper plate toward a lower portion of the pipe.

18. **(Previously Cancelled)**

19. **(Previously Cancelled)**

20. **(Previously Presented)** The method as defined in Claim 16, wherein the curved lower plate is configured for planar engagement with the pipe along a circumferential length of from 90° to 160°.

21. **(Previously Presented)** A pipe shoe for supporting a pipe from a pipe rack or other structural support, the pipe shoe comprising:

a generally horizontal base plate for sliding engagement with the pipe rack or other structural support in response to thermal expansion of the pipe;

a left-side support plate and a right-side support plate each affixed to and extending generally upward from the base plate, the right-side support plate including a right-side support plate port;

a curved lower plate affixed to and supported on both the left-side support plate and the right-side support plate, the curved lower plate being configured for supporting the pipe;

a curved upper plate including a left-side lower end and a right-side lower end for positioning about the pipe;

a left-side attachment member for attaching the left-side lower end of the upper plate to the left-side support plate;

an attachment mechanism for securing the right-side lower end of the upper plate

to the right-side support plate, the attachment mechanism including a right-side bolt passing through a hole in the right-side lower end of the upper plate and the right-side support plate port, such that the curved upper plate is pulled toward the base plate to place the right-side bolt in tension when the right-side bolt is tightened;

a rear left-side support plate and a rear right-side support plate each affixed to the base plate; and

the curved lower plate extends axially from the front support plates to the rear support plate.

22. **(Previously Presented)** The pipe shoe as defined in Claim 21, wherein the right-side support plate is angled at from 1° to 5° with respect to the plane perpendicular to the base plate.

23. **(Previously Presented)** The pipe shoe as defined in Claim 21, wherein the left-side support plate is positioned radially inward of the left-side lower end of the upper plate, and the right-side support plate is positioned radially inward of the right-side lower end of the upper plate.

24. **(Previously Presented)** The pipe shoe as defined in Claim 21, wherein the curved lower plate is configured for planar engagement with the pipe along a circumferential length of from 90° to 160°.

25. **(Previously Presented)** The pipe shoe as defined in Claim 21, wherein each of the curved lower plate and curved upper plate have an arcuate interior surface with a radius substantially conforming to an exterior surface of the pipe.

26. **(Previously Presented)** A pipe shoe for supporting a pipe from a pipe rack or other structural support, the pipe shoe comprising:

a generally horizontal base plate for sliding engagement with the pipe rack or other structural support in response to thermal expansion of the pipe;

a left-side support plate and a right-side support plate each affixed to and extending generally upward from the base plate and angled away from the centerline of the pipe with respect to a plane perpendicular to the base plate, the right-side support plate including a right-side support plate port and the left-side support plate including a left-side support plate port;

a curved lower plate affixed to and supported on both the left-side support plate and the right-side support plate, the curved lower plate being configured for supporting the pipe;

a curved upper plate including a left-side lower end and a right-side lower end for positioning about the pipe;

an attachment mechanism for securing the right-side lower end of the upper plate to the right-side support plate, the attachment mechanism including a right-side bolt passing through a hole in the right-side lower end of the upper plate and the right-side support plate port, such that the curved upper plate is pulled toward the base plate to place the right-side bolt in tension when the right-side bolt is tightened;

a front left-side support plate and a front right-side support plate each secured to the base plate;

a rear left-side support plate and a rear right-side support plate each affixed to the base plate; and

the curved lower plate extends axially from the front support plates to the rear support plate.

27. **(Previously Presented)** The pipe shoe as defined in Claim 26, wherein the

left-side support plate is positioned radially inward of the left-side lower end of the upper plate, and the right-side support plate is positioned radially inward of the right-side lower end of the upper plate.

28. **(Previously Presented)** The pipe shoe as defined in Claim 26, wherein the curved lower plate is configured for planar engagement with the pipe along a circumferential length of from 90° to 160°.

29. **(Previously Presented)** A pipe shoe for supporting a pipe from a pipe rack or other structural support, the pipe shoe comprising:

a generally horizontal base plate for sliding engagement with the pipe rack or other structural support in response to expansion of the pipe;

a left-side support plate and a right-side support plate each affixed to and extending generally upward from the base plate, the right-side support plate including a right-side support plate port;

a curved lower plate affixed to and supported on both the left-side support plate and the right-side support plate, the curved lower plate being configured for supporting the pipe;

a curved upper plate including a left-side lower end and a right-side lower end for positioning about the pipe;

a left-side attachment member for attaching the left-side lower end of the upper plate to the left-side support plate;

an attachment mechanism for securing the right-side lower end of the upper plate to the right-side support plate, the attachment mechanism including a right-side bolt passing through a hole in the right-side lower end of the upper plate and the right-side support plate port, at least one of the right-side hole and the right-side port being oversized

with respect to the right-side bolt to permit the right-side bolt to pass through the hole and the port, and the curved upper plate is pulled toward the base plate to place the right-side bolt in both tension and shear when the right-side bolt is tightened; and

the right-side support plate being angled away from the centerline of the pipe with respect to a plane perpendicular to a plane of the base plate, such that tightening the right-side bolt pulls the right-side lower end of the upper plate toward a lower portion of the pipe.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The pipe shoe as defined in Claim 29, further comprising:

a left-side support plate port, a left-side bolt, and a left-side support plate hole in the left-side lower end of the upper plate.

31. **(Previously Presented)** The pipe shoe as defined in Claim 29, wherein the curved lower plate is configured for planar engagement with the pipe along a circumferential length from 90° to 160°.

32. **(Previously Presented)** The pipe shoe as defined in Claim 29, wherein each of the lower plate and curved upper plate have an arcuate interior surface with a radius substantially conforming to an exterior surface of the pipe.

33. **(Previously Presented)** A method of supporting a pipe from a pipe rack or other structural support, the method comprising:

providing a generally horizontal base plate for sliding engagement with the pipe rack or other structural support in response to expansion of the pipe;

affixing each of a left-side support plate and a right-side support plate to and extending generally upward from the base plate, the right-side support plate including the right-side support plate port;

affixing a curved lower plate to and supported on both the left-side support plate and the right-side support plate, the curved lower plate being configured for supporting the pipe;

providing a curved upper plate including a left-side lower end and a right-side lower end for positioning about the pipe;

attaching the left-side lower end of the upper plate to the left-side support plate;

securing the right-side lower end of the upper plate to the right-side support plate by inserting a right-side bolt through a hole in the right-side lower end of the upper plate and the right-side support plate port, at least one of the right-side hole and the right-side port being oversized with respect to the right-side bolt; and

tightening the right-side bolt to pull the curved upper plate toward the base plate and place the right-side bolt in both tension and shear.

34. **(Previously Presented)** The method as defined in Claim 33, further comprising:

angling the right-side support plate with respect to a plane perpendicular to a plane of the base plate, the right-side support plate being angled away from the centerline of the pipe, such that tightening the right-side bolt pulls the right-side lower end of the upper plate toward a lower portion of the pipe.

35. **(Previously Presented)** The method as defined in Claim 33, wherein the curved lower plate is configured for planar engagement with the pipe along a circumferential length from 90° to 160°.